

MINE WORKERS PREPARED

The Final Meetings of the Union Men Before the Strike.

Organization in the Anthracite District Practically Complete—Men Employed at Pittston Join the Union in a Body—Speakers Advise Against Outbreaks—The Operators Gathering Miners in the Hazleton Region—Effort to Be Made to Continue Work Today—Business Depression Already Being Felt—Action of Wholesale Dealers Regarding Credit to the Retailers.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Sept. 16.—Final meetings of the United Mine Workers of this region before the strike were held this afternoon, and numbers who had not joined the union enrolled their names at the "locals." The organization is now almost solid in the district, which comprises the cities of Scranton, Carbondale, Wilkesbarre, and Pittston, and the big towns of Dunmore, Duryea, Avoca, Mazonia, West Pittston, Wyoming, Kingsport Plains, Parsons, Miners' Mills, Ashley, Nanticoke, Plymouth, and Edwardsville.

Some doubt was felt regarding the feeling of the miners of the Pennsylvania Coal Company at Pittston, but their feeling was expressed last night and today when in a body they joined the union. The leaders now report that with the possible exception of a couple of small individual collieries none of the mines in this big region will attempt to work tomorrow.

At the meetings held today the speakers made a special point of counseling the men against any outbreak, declaring that it would merely result in adding the companies, as the militia would then be called out. They impressed this upon the men for the reason that the companies are gathering a lot of men in the Hazleton region where trouble is thought to be most likely to occur. It is in that region that efforts are to be made tomorrow to work about half of the mines. The business depression consequent to the strike is already being felt. Several of the big department stores are planning to lay off a number of clerks, the factories, if the strike lasts long, will be compelled to close, and the utmost economy is being used in the consumption of coal.

That there will be no disastrous failures such as marked other strikes and swept many big business men into ruin is evident by the actions of the merchants. During the past few days, there have been confidential meetings among the wholesale dealers of this city, Scranton, Pittston, and other towns where the question of protection against losses during the coming strike was the topic of discussion.

It was finally agreed that they would all notify their retail customers that no more credit would be given those who sold to miners after Monday, unless they disposed of their goods at spot cash. Some of the big retailers, acting under this notification, have already informed their customers who work in the mines of this decision, and have told them that those only can have credit who own property and are willing to deposit judgment notes with the merchants as a guarantee against loss.

A large party of Hungarians and Slovaks left today on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western. Many of them are going to their native countries and others will try to get work in the West.

A considerable number of English-speaking miners are also arranging to go west. Most of them will go to Montana, the Dakotas, and Iowa, where there now is a demand for men, and some few will go to the soft coal regions.

The question of how long the mine workers will be able to hold out is the chief one being considered now, for it is evident that the companies will grant the fight a long one, who are making any concessions. The men today are confident, and say they were never in better condition for the enforcement of their demands by remaining on strike. If necessary they can, they believe, hold out several months. An old miner said: "Most of them whom I know can be on strike for ten weeks at least without calling on the union for aid. After that they will need aid, but it should be time enough for the union to gather in sufficient money to make a large fund."

The leaders assert that the union has a fund of a million dollars on which to start the strike, and that the donations from other labor unions will quickly swell this fund.

LYKENS VALLEY MINERS.

Disagreement Between the Men at Williamstown and Wiconisco.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Sept. 16.—A meeting of the six hundred members of the Miners' Union at Lykens was held this afternoon in a large room, at which it was decided not to work tomorrow. The mine officials believe, however, that enough men will go to work to keep the colliery in operation.

The reports from the neighboring town of Wiconisco are that the men there will also stay out. A secret session of the union was held tonight, at which a committee was appointed to urge all the mine employees in the Lykens region to strike. The 1,400 miners and boys at Williamstown, five miles away, are opposed to a strike and the majority will go to work tomorrow as usual. The union officials have not been able to organize the men at Williamstown because of the refusal of the Lykens and Wiconisco men in the strike of 1896 to help Williamstown.

Sheriff Reiff is at Lykens prepared for any trouble which may occur between union and non-union men. The collieries in this region are controlled by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and have been working full time for several years.

\$1.00 To Harper's Ferry and Win.

From B. & O. station at 8 a. m., Sunday, September 22. Returning leave Winchester 7 and Harper's Ferry 8 p. m., same day. A popular trip with ample accommodations. You can afford to take your family for an outing.

Lumber Prices to suit today because lumber is down at friendly owner, G. & S. T. etc.

ENGINEERS MAY SYMPATHIZE.

A Secret Meeting Held to Discuss the Coal Strike.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., Sept. 16.—A secret meeting of locomotive engineers is being held in this city tonight. The number of delegates is comparatively few, owing to the fact that the lodges have only one representative each. Extreme efforts have been made to keep the meeting from press and public, but one engineer from the eastern division of the Erie stated that the men were brought up over the coal strike, and he thought they would refuse to haul the coal now stored.

The railroad trainmen, he said, were willing to back up the engineers in any action they might take. The United Mine Workers had been promised an answer to their enquiries as to the position of the railroad men by tomorrow, and the lodges sending delegates had conferred absolute power on them to reach a decision. It is possible the matter may not be decided tonight, as some of the engineers claim there is no large supply of coal on hand.

Members of other labor organizations who have talked with the engineers are confident they will go out.

THE SITUATION AT PITTSBURGH.

Uncertainty Regarding Action of the Pennsylvania Company's Men.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Sept. 16.—There is little on the streets of this town today to indicate that tomorrow there will be a great strike. The strike was the theme in many pulpits. The most significant reference to the situation, perhaps, was from the Rev. Eugene J. Connelley, vicar of the Holy Trinity church, and pastor of St. John's church of this city. Father Connelley is a man of much influence. His congregation numbers several thousand, composed mainly of miners' families. The parish property is valued at \$200,000.

Until today Father Connelley had not referred to the strike in his sermons, but at this morning's services he bade the mine workers to be very careful what they do. He dwelt on the misdeeds that would result from a cessation of work, especially for the women and children, and warned them that when it became absolutely necessary to fight for principle the men who did so must be content with much and not expect a large reward. He particularly earnest in denouncing the professional labor agitators and warned his people against them and their false promises. The conclusion was that the miners should frequent the sanctuary rather than the saloon and the agitators' meetings, and pray God to change the hearts of men.

There are forty-six collieries in the Pittsburgh district. It is freely predicted tonight that the six collieries of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company in this district, together with thirty others belonging to individual operators will be idle tomorrow. The officials of these collieries admit that their employees are organized and that the company is a private enterprise, and that a complete shut down. Expenses will be reduced to a minimum. The engineers, pump runners, and firemen alone are secure in their places, since the pumps are stopped without being lost in the water that would fill the workings.

The Pennsylvania Coal Company is the largest coal producer in this district. It has nine large collieries, each composed of several shafts or tunnels. Tonight no man seems to be able to predict with any degree of certainty whether the employees of this company generally will obey the order to strike. There are unions at several of the collieries, but no thorough organization. The situation is a private one in that all the Lehigh Valley and individual collieries in the district, thirty-seven in all, will be idle, and that a sufficient number of non-union Pennsylvania Company workmen may help to keep open one of its six collieries partially in operation.

IN THE SOFT COAL REGION.

Bituminous Coal Miners Do Not Favor a Sympathetic Strike.

ALTOONA, Pa., Sept. 16.—A definite sentiment is abroad in the bituminous coal fields condemning a sympathetic strike with the anthracite miners of eastern Pennsylvania. The opinion, latent until today, was manifested at meetings of miners held at Paritan, Dunlo, and Spangler, where there was agitation to get the men out. Representatives of the anthracite men were present at the meetings, and made pleas for a general strike. The situation is a private one in that all the Lehigh Valley and individual collieries in the district, thirty-seven in all, will be idle, and that a sufficient number of non-union Pennsylvania Company workmen may help to keep open one of its six collieries partially in operation.

APPEAL TO ARBITRATION.

The Employees of G. B. Markle & Co. May Not Strike.

HAZLETON, Pa., Sept. 16.—G. B. Markle & Co., operating the Jeddo, Highland, Elberta, and Oakdale collieries, will make answer to the demands of their men within the next ten days. These demands were drawn up and submitted by their own employees. If the company is not satisfied with the demands, then, according to an agreement existing since 1887, between the employees and the firm, two arbitrators will be chosen, one appointed by the men, and the other selected by the company, to settle all differences. If these two cannot agree, then they will choose a third arbitrator.

John Markle, resident manager of the firm, this afternoon agreed on the part of the company to accept the demands of the employees, as the third arbitrator, President Mitchell and Secretary James went to Jeddo today and urged the men to strike, and arrived this afternoon and took charge of the situation.

The French Minister at Taku.

PARIS, Sept. 16.—M. Delcasse, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has received a telegram from M. Pichon, the French Minister to China, reporting his arrival at Taku, on Thursday last. He left Peking on September 1. He states that all the ladies and children of the French Legation are well.

Will Cruise to Yantseki Ports.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—A dispatch to the Central News, dated Shanghai, says that the United States gunboat, Albatross, will start Monday for a cruise to the Yantseki ports.

Go to Chesapeake Beach Today.

Music, fine dinner, bathing, amusements.

Millwork in complete stocks everywhere. Best kind of millwork, at 6th and N. Y. Libbey & Co.

LOOKING TOWARD PEACE

The Empress Dowager Listening to Progressive Chinamen.

Indications That Their Influence Is Having Effect—Hoped That an Edict Will Be Issued Commanding Absolute Reform in the Government Before Negotiations Begin.

SHANGHAI, Sept. 16.—There are indications that the influence of progressive Chinamen holding high offices is having greater effect on the Empress Dowager than ever before. Another edict, the second issued by the Dowager since her flight from Peking before the advance of the allied forces, was issued at Homa, on September 9. In it her majesty denounces the Boxers and blames them for all the present troubles. She orders that if they offer any opposition to the imperial troops that they are to be destroyed root and branch. In fact, the edict practically orders their extermination. This edict is in line with the demands made by Li Hung Chang and Sheng, director of posts and telegraphs. It is now hoped by the progressives that a stronger edict will be issued commanding an absolute reform in the Government before the negotiations begin. It is believed that such an edict would greatly simplify matters.

It is the belief here among well-informed persons that if, when the negotiations begin, the Empress Dowager issues a plan of settlement and forcefully urges its adoption the other powers would accept it. It can be stated without fear of contradiction that the United States is General of the Catholic Diocese of Scranton and pastor of St. John's church of this city. Father Connelley is a man of much influence. His congregation numbers several thousand, composed mainly of miners' families. The parish property is valued at \$200,000.

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Millwork in complete stocks everywhere. Best kind of millwork, at 6th and N. Y. Libbey & Co.

Splendid supply of White Pine Upturned, best kind of Michigan pine, at 6th and N. Y. Libbey & Co.

Only Civilities Exchanged Between Von Schwartzburg and Li.

LONDON, Sept. 17.—The Berlin correspondent of the "Telegraph" claims to have knowledge that the details published by the "Lokal Anzeiger" regarding the meeting of Baron Munn von Schwartzburg, the German Minister to China, and Li Hung Chang, in China, are inaccurate and misleading.

He declares positively that nothing but civilities were exchanged. There were some unimportant general remarks made through an interpreter. Li Hung Chang sought the German representative, who received him because a refusal would have been misconstrued.

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IMPEACHING THE LEADERS.

Li Hung Chang's Decisive Action Before Leaving for Peking.

LONDON, Sept. 17.—The Shanghai correspondent of the "Times" says he learns from a trustworthy source that Li Hung Chang, prior to his departure for Peking, telegraphed to memorialize the throne, impeaching Prince Tuan, Tsaitan, the Prince Imperial, Kang Yi, and Chao Shu Chiam. At the same time he informed the Viceroy of Nankin and Wu Chang that he had done so, adding that he had subscribed their names and Yang Shih Kai's to the memorial, as his impending departure and the urgency of the matter prevented him from consulting them, and he had taken their consent for granted.

It now appears that Liu Kun Yi approves and Chang Chih Tung disapproves of their respective names in the memorial, which means a definite rupture with the large influential party that is responsible for the present situation. Li Hung Chang's action was largely due to his having realized from his interviews with Mr. Hickhill, the American Special Envoy, and the German Minister, that it was useless to discuss any settlement which excludes the punishment of the Emperor Dowager and her advisers.

The correspondent records a report that the German Minister told Li Hung Chang that the powers were averse to the punishment of China, any delay on her part in negotiating would be calculated to lead thereto. Germany's large force was prepared to remain in occupation indefinitely, pending a settlement. General Yung Lu, who made every effort to secure an audience with the Dowager and persuade her to accept a settlement, was told by the Dowager to remove Prince Tuan and entourage. The correspondent describes Li Hung Chang's embarkation for Tientsin as almost squalid. Director Sheng refused to accompany him on the plea of illness.

CHINESE TROOPS MASSING.

Sir Robert Hart Expects Another Warlike Attack.

PEKING, Sept. 17.—Sir Robert Hart, Director of Imperial Customs, has warned the general to expect a renewal of hostilities, probably in November. The Chinese troops are concentrating and moving on the line of communications between Peking and Tientsin. General Chaffee believes that there are enough foreign troops here to hold Peking against any attack.

Mr. Conger, the American Minister, has learned from a trustworthy source that all the Americans in Peking will be killed. He believes there were eight Americans killed. Chinese troops are concentrating and moving on the line of communications between Peking and Tientsin. General Chaffee believes that there are enough foreign troops here to hold Peking against any attack.

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DE WET REPORTED DEAD

The Boer General Said to Have Fallen Near Poleschroom.

His Kaffir Servant Authority for the Statement That the Burgers' Leader Was Shot Through the Lungs and Died a Few Hours Later—General French at Barberton.

PRETORIA, Sept. 15.—(Delayed in transmission)—General French has occupied Barberton. There is strong reason to believe that General De Wet, who has caused the British so much trouble, was killed on September 7 near Poleschroom. His kaffir servant, who has reached Verburg, states that General De Wet was shot through the lungs and died a few hours afterward.

The British captured forty-two engines at Barberton. At present, however, they are of no use, as Kappelmuller, the place where the Barberton road joins the main railway, is still in the hands of the Boers.

KRUGER MAY LEAVE.

The Government of Portugal Grants Him Permission.

LISBON, Sept. 16.—The Government has granted permission to the Governor of Mozambique, instructing him to allow Mr. Kruger to leave for Europe, but saying that the Governor must assure himself that he is going to Europe. He is also instructed to secure his safety and proper treatment until he embarks.

CAPTURED BY McDONALD.

Boer Ammunition and Supplies Fall Into British Hands.

BLOOMFONTEIN, Sept. 15.—General Macdonald, on Thursday, intercepted eight hundred Boers between the Vet River and Winburg, and captured 21 wagons, 45,000 rounds of ammunition, and a quantity of foodstuffs and clothing. The Boers had three guns, which they saved.

BACK FROM PRETORIA.

A Telegraph Messenger Returns From a Visit to Kruger.

NEW YORK, Sept. 15.—James Francis Smith, American District Telegraph messenger No. 1524, stepped off the American Line steamship New York this morning at the foot of Fulton street, returning from South Africa.

He started for Pretoria on April 11 last, bearing with him a message of sympathy from 27,000 school boys of Philadelphia to President Kruger, of the Transvaal Republic, and a 650 book filled with clippings about Oom Paul which were collected by Frank P. Buerle, of this city.

Smith remained in Pretoria on May 25, the day Oom Paul and his cabinet evacuated Pretoria. With his traveling companion, Hugh Sutherland, of Philadelphia, he was detained in Pretoria six weeks a British prisoner. Finally the two Americans were allowed to go to Cape Town,